



HJ0102

LRB098 21617 MGM 60419 r

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The 98th General Assembly of the State of Illinois  
3 has submitted House Joint Resolution Constitutional Amendment  
4 52, a proposition to amend the Illinois Constitution, to the  
5 voters of Illinois at the November 2014 general election; and

6 WHEREAS, The Illinois Constitution Amendment Act requires  
7 the General Assembly to prepare a brief explanation of the  
8 proposed amendment, a brief argument in favor of the amendment,  
9 a brief argument against the amendment, and the form in which  
10 the amendment will appear on the ballot, and also requires the  
11 information to be published and distributed to the electorate;  
12 therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
14 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
15 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that the proposed form of new Section  
16 8 of Article III shall be published as follows:

17 "ARTICLE III

18 SUFFRAGE AND ELECTIONS

19 SECTION 8. VOTER DISCRIMINATION

20 No person shall be denied the right to register to vote or  
21 to cast a ballot in an election based on race, color,

1 ethnicity, status as a member of a language minority, national  
2 origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or income."; and be  
3 it further

4       RESOLVED, That a brief explanation of the proposed  
5 amendment, a brief argument in favor of the amendment, a brief  
6 argument against the amendment, and the form in which the  
7 amendment will appear on the ballot shall be published and  
8 distributed as follows:

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**PROPOSED AMENDMENT  
TO ADD SECTION 8 TO ARTICLE III  
OF THE ILLINOIS CONSTITUTION**

**That will be submitted to the voters  
November 4, 2014**

**This pamphlet includes**

- EXPLANATION OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT***
- ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF THE AMENDMENT***
- ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE AMENDMENT***
- FORM OF BALLOT***

1 *To the Electors of the State of Illinois:*

2 The purpose of a state constitution is to establish a structure  
3 for government and laws. There are three ways to initiate  
4 change to the Illinois Constitution: (1) a constitutional  
5 convention may propose changes to any part; (2) the General  
6 Assembly may propose changes to any part; or (3) a petition  
7 initiative may propose amendments limited to structural and  
8 procedural subjects contained in the Legislative Article. The  
9 people of Illinois must approve any changes to the Constitution  
10 before they become effective.

11 The proposed amendment adds a new section to the Suffrage and  
12 Elections Article of the Illinois Constitution. The section  
13 would ensure no person could be denied the right to register to  
14 vote or cast a ballot based on his or her race, color,  
15 ethnicity, status as a member of a language minority, national  
16 origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or income. At the  
17 general election to be held on November 4, 2014, you will be  
18 called upon to decide whether the proposed amendment should  
19 become part of the Illinois Constitution.

20

**EXPLANATION**

21 The proposed amendment would prohibit any law or procedure that  
22 intentionally discriminates or has an unequal effect upon the

1 right of a person to register to vote or cast a ballot based on  
2 the voter's race, color, ethnicity, status as a member of a  
3 language minority, national origin, religion, sex, sexual  
4 orientation, or income.

5 The proposed amendment does not change the requirements for  
6 voting. A voter must still be a citizen of the United States, a  
7 permanent resident of Illinois for more than 30 days, and be 18  
8 years of age.

9 **Arguments In Favor of the Proposed Amendment**

10 The proposed amendment is a demonstration that the people  
11 of Illinois believe all eligible Illinois citizens have a  
12 fundamental right to vote, and that laws and regulations that  
13 seek to prohibit eligible Illinois citizens from voting in an  
14 election should not be tolerated in a civil society. Under the  
15 amendment, any law or procedure that has a disparate impact  
16 upon the ability of a person to register to vote or cast a  
17 ballot based on the voter's race, color, ethnicity, status as a  
18 member of a language minority, national origin, religion, sex,  
19 sexual orientation, or income would be subject to strict  
20 judicial scrutiny.

21 **Arguments Against the Proposed Amendment**

